2. (Amended) A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

marking, in a database of said system, component mappers for components which contribute to said availability of said system function; and

utilizing said marked component mappers, when a change in a state of a component has taken place or is intended, to assess whether said change in state that has taken place results, or said intended change in state would result, in a change in said availability of said system function.

3. (Amended) A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

recording a respective current functional state of a system component for said system component in the database;

recording, by said database, for each system component, whether said component contributes to said availability of a system function monitored for availability, and, if so, for which system function or system functions said component contributes to said availability; and

assessing, when a change in a state of a component of said system has taken place or is intended, using data stored in said database for other system components to assess whether said availability of a system function monitored for availability changes or would change as a result of such a change.

4. (Amended) A method of monitoring for availability of a system function in a computer system, comprising the steps of:

marking, using a stipulation regarding which system function is monitored for availability, among components of said system which are mapped in a database, those components which are necessary for said availability of said system function;

marking, in addition, a respective state of said components of said system which are mapped in the database for said components; and

assessing, when a change in a component state has taken place or is intended, whether said change results or would result in a change in availability of said system function.

5. (Amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of:

storing, by said database stores, for each system function regarded as being relevant to availability, information which describes conditions under which said availability of a system function is to be assessed as existing or no longer existing.

6. (Amended) An availability monitoring component in a computer system, comprising:

a database; and

system components wherein, when a change in a state of one of said components of said system has taken place or is intended, said system assessing, using information stored in said database, whether said change in state changes or would change an availability of a system function, said database, for this purpose, indicating for each data map for a component whether a mapped component contributes to said availability of a system function, and, if so, to which system function or system functions contribute to said availability of a system function.

7. (Amended) The availability monitoring component as claimed in claim 6, wherein said availability monitoring component additionally makes said assessment based on particular conditions which are stored in said database for each system function regarded as being relevant to availability.

8. (Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a stipulator that stipulates for said system which system function is to be monitored for availability;

a component map which, for a component, records in a database whether said component is at all necessary for a system function monitored for availability and for which system function it is necessary, and which also records for said component its respective functional state; and

an assessor which uses said data recorded in said database made in a component map to assess whether a change in a state of a component which has taken place or is intended to take place has resulted or would result in a change in an availability of said system function.